

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1-8, 11 and 13-26 are pending in this application.

Request to Fully Initial and Return Form PTO-1449:

Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) including a Form PTO-1449 on April 16, 2004. A copy of a partially initialed Form PTO-1449 was returned to Applicant. However, U.S. Patent No. 4,913,507 cited on the Form PTO-1449 was not initialed as being considered. Applicant believes that this was merely an oversight. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider this reference and return a fully initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant has attached hereto a copy of the returned Form PTO-1449.

Drawings:

Applicant filed amendments to the drawings on April 16, 2004. Applicant assumes that these amendments to the drawings have been accepted. Applicant respectfully solicits notice to this effect.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 1-8, 11, 14, 19, 20 and 25-26 are allowable.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 9-10, 12-13, 15-18 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kawasaki et al (U.S. '825, hereinafter "Kawasaki"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

For a reference to anticipate a claim, each element must be found, either expressly or under principles of inherency, in the reference. Each element of the claimed invention is not found in Kawasaki. For example, Kawasaki fails to disclose “wherein the mode field transformer includes a waist portion having a cross-sectional area which is smaller than the cross-sectional area of the system fiber,” as required by independent claim 15. Independent claims 13 and 18 require similar (but not necessarily identical) features. Kawasaki also fails to disclose “wherein the dimension of the optical fiber section to decrease the optical power density within the optical fiber section to a level below that at which catastrophic damage propagation is supported has a cross-sectional area which is smaller than the cross-sectional area of another optical fiber section in the optical communications route,” as required by independent claim 21. Independent claim 22 requires similar (but not necessarily identical) features.

In contrast to a mode field transformer including a waist portion having a cross-sectional area which is smaller than the cross-sectional area of a system fiber, mode expansion in Kawasaki is accomplished by expanding the physical cross section of the fiber core. (See, e.g., Figs. 2, 3c-3d and 4a-4b of Kawasaki). Moreover, Kawasaki further fails to disclose or even suggest decreasing optical power density to a level below which propagation of optical power induced optical damage is supported as required by, for example, claims 13, 18 and 21. Indeed, Kawasaki makes no reference to propagating damage. Instead, Kawasaki is concerned with localized (i.e., static damage) that may occur at the end of an optical fiber brought about by contamination. Kawasaki is clearly directed to a different technical problem and thus one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Kawasaki to arrive at the present invention.

WYATT et al.
Application No.: 09/805,377
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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of still pending claims 13, 15-18 and 21-24 be withdrawn.

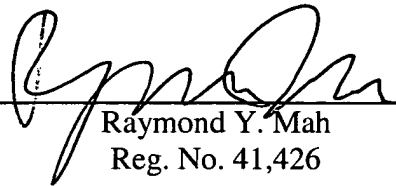
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

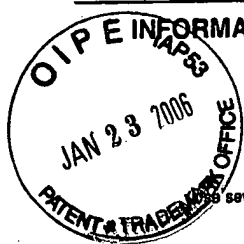
NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Raymond Y. Mah
Reg. No. 41,426

RYM:sl
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203
Telephone: (703) 816-4044
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

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09/805,377

APPLICANT

WYATT et al

FILING DATE

TC/A.U.

March 14, 2001

2633

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent pages, etc.)

[illegible]

***Examiner**

D. Foy

9/16/05

Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application.